CIPHER

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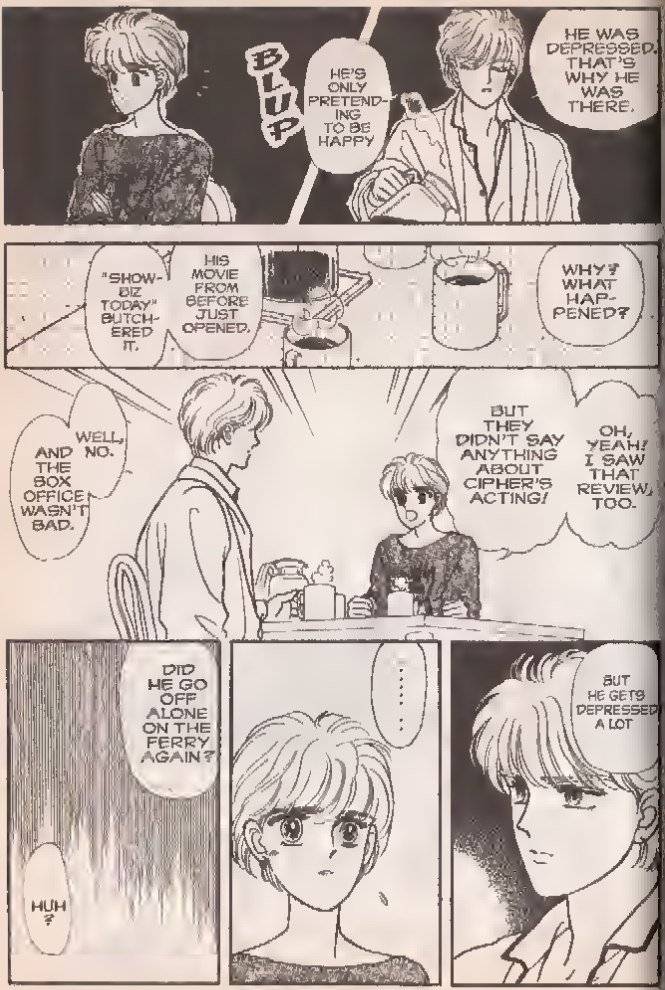
Scene 6 EAST END BOYS AND WEST END GIRL

CIPHER
#137
IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT THERE'S NO LIMIT TO HOW FAR YOU CAN FALL
THERE'S NO TOP OR BOTTOM LIMITS.
THE RICH AND THE PO... CHARITY AN... DRUGS... SUCCESS A... FAILURE
I'M STILL AT THE STARTING POINT SQUARE ONE
I CAN STILL CHOOSE EITHER ONE OF THEM
AS LONG AS I DON'T GIVE UP, I CAN STILL MAKE IT TO THE TOP.

ZZZ
TIK TOK
.....

WHAT THE .
BAM
HEY, ROY, WAKE UP.
MORNING, ANISE! WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
UHHH.
I CAN'T WAKE UP IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME A KISS
NOW GET UP. TIME TO GET OUT OF BED.
SPREAD ON TOP? FINE.
I WANT SOME YO-GURT.
WITH ICE CREAM AND RAISINS.

MMM-
OKAY, OKAY, YOU LAZY BUM.
OH...
.....
UH... ANISE ...
YOU WANT SOME COF-FEE?
AAAEOU
YES, PLEASE!
WAIT A SEC. I'VE GOTTA TAKE A SHOWER!
ANISE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
GOOD MORN-ING


BLUP
HE'S ONLY PRETENDING TO BE HAPPY
HE WAS DEPRESSED. THAT'S WHY HE WAS THERE.
"SHOW-BIZ TODAY" BUTCHERED IT.
HIS MOVIE FROM BEFORE JUST OPENED.
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, AND NO. THE BOX OFFICE WASN'T BAD.
BUT THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT CIPHER'S ACTING!
OH, YEAH! I SAW THAT REVIEW, TOO.
DID HE GO OFF ALONE ON THE FERRY AGAIN?
HUH?
.....
BUT HE GETS DEPRESSED A LOT

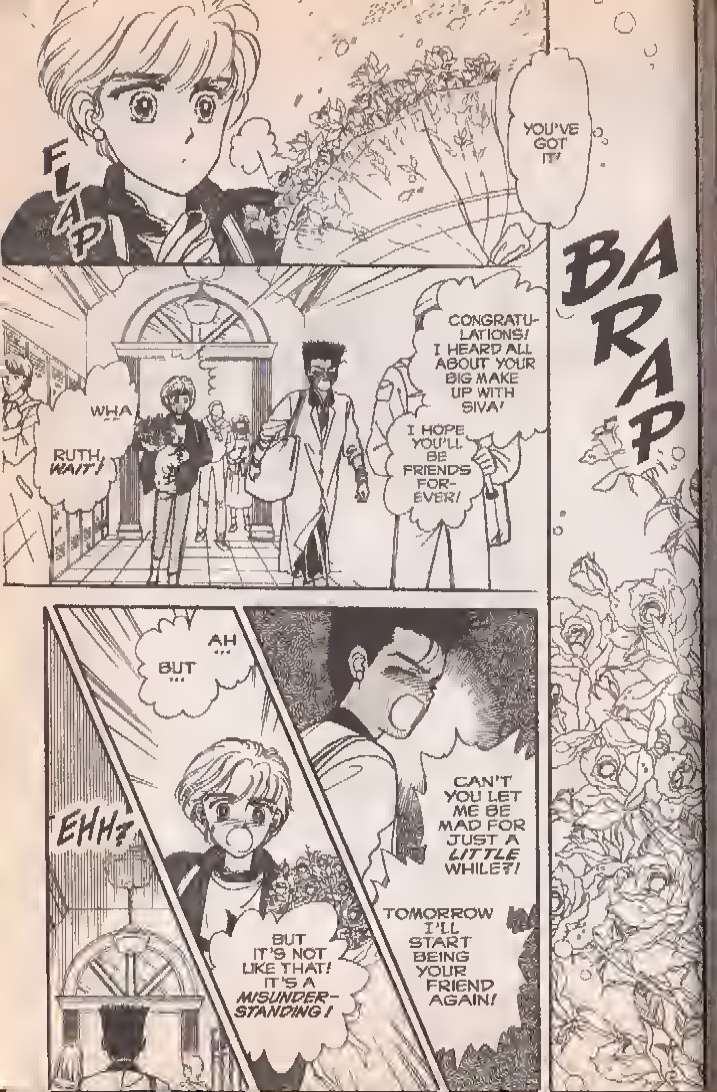
ANISE! MORNING... AGAIN.
HI.
NO.
I NEVER KNEW THAT.
WHEN CIPHER GETS DEPRESSED, HE RIDES THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY.
DIDN'T HE EVER TELL YOU?
KISS
DID YOU TELL ANISE ABOUT US?
FWOOP
BY THE WAY, JAKE!

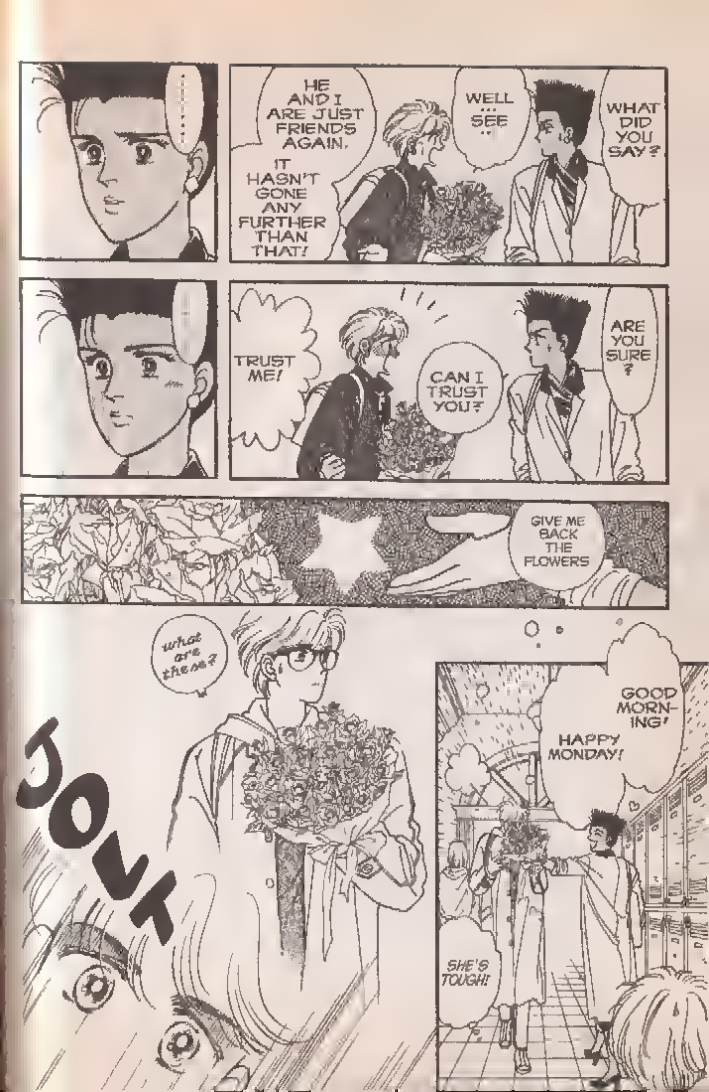
YEAH, THAT.
WHAT ABOUT US?
YOU MEAN ABOUT LIVING TO-GETH-ERT
BUT FROM NOW ON, WE'VE DECIDED TO BE OPEN ABOUT HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER.
WE'VE PRETENDED THAT CIPHER JUST COMES OVER NOW AND THEN.
YOU KNOW, UP TILL NOW
IT JUST MEANS THAT SOMETIMES JAKE WILL HAVE TO PRETEND HE'S CIPHER.
TOTALLY DIFFERENT! IT MEANS WHEN ONE GOES OUT, THE OTHER DOESN'T HAVE TO HIDE ANYMORE.
AND?! HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE?
WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
IN SIX MONTHS
WE GRADU-ATE.
IT'LL BE A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN BEFORE BUT JUST FOR SIX MORE MONTHS.
AND THE ONE WHO STAYS HOME WILL BE CIPHER.
WE'LL KEEP TAKING TURNS GOING TO SCHOOL.
SAME WHEN WE'RE WORKING.
JAKE
ROY

JAKE WANTS TO GO ON TO COLLEGE, BUT NOT ME.
I WANT TO KEEP ACTING, BUT JAKE WANTS TO QUIT.
WE GO BACK TO BEING TWO PEOPLE.
SO WHEN WE GRADUATE, WE STOP LIVING LIKE THIS.
W-WAIT A SEC-OND.
I'M NOT QUITE SURE I GET THIS.
WHY HAVE YOU GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE CONCEALING CIPHER'S EXISTENCE?
IT'S MADE THINGS HARD AT WORK AND SCHOOL.

YOU'VE BEEN DOING IF FOR SO LONG.
WHY BRING CIPHER OUT NOW?!
I-- I'M SORRY.
I KNOW-- I PROMISED I WOULDN'T ASK.
THANK YOU
YOU WANTED YOGURT AND... WHAT?
ICE CREAM
SO?
I LOVE YOU, JAKE.

OR WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
I THOUGHT WE WERE ABOUT TO BECOME LOVERS THEN.
NOTHING'S REALLY CHANGED.


FLAP
YOU'VE GOT IT!
BARAP
CONGRATULATIONS! I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOUR BIG MAKE UP WITH SIVA!
I HOPE YOU'LL BE FRIENDS FOREVER!
WHA
RUTH, WAIT!
AH ...
BUT ...
EHH?
CAN'T YOU LET ME BE MAD FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE?!
TOMORROW I'LL START BEING YOUR FRIEND AGAIN!
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING!


HE AND I ARE JUST FRIENDS AGAIN.
IT HASN'T GONE ANY FURTHER THAN THAT!
WELL ... SEE ..
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
TRUST ME!
CAN I TRUST YOU?
ARE YOU SURE?
GIVE ME BACK THE FLOWERS
what are these?
JOLT
GOOD MORNING!
HAPPY MONDAY!
SHE'S TOUGH!

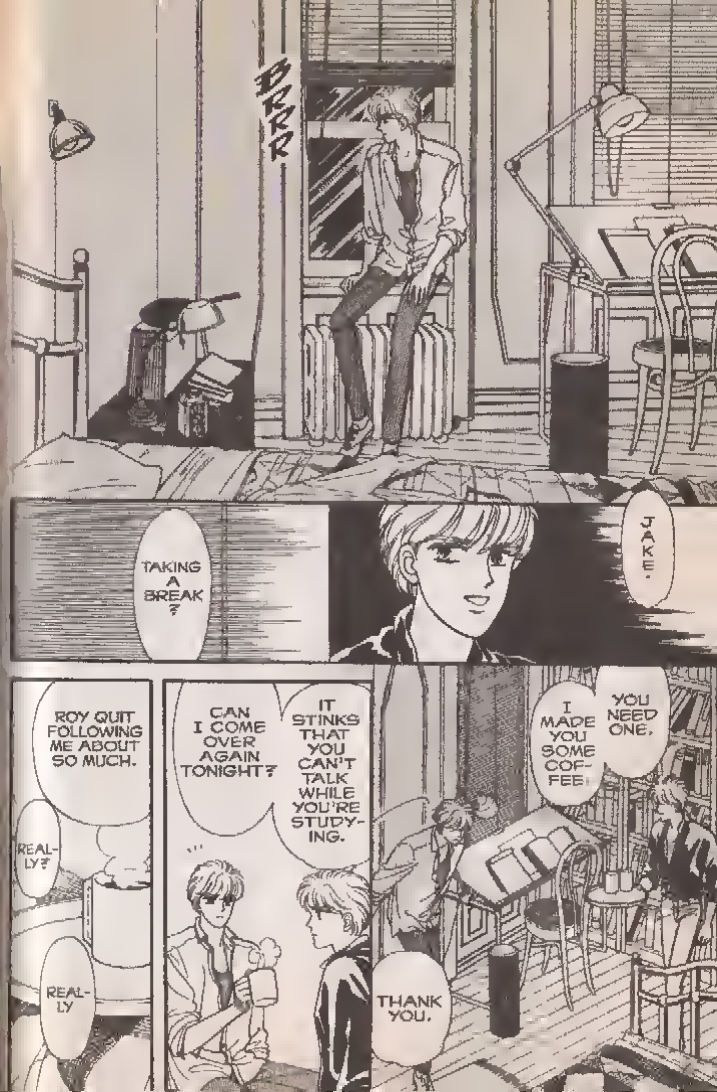
BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, YOU'RE ACTING GUILTY.
SO WHAT WAS IT?
BUSTED
GASP
大将
DID YOU HEAR WHAT WE WERE SAYING?
WHAT'S UP?
NO, I DIDN'T.
I'M... I'M SORRY!
I TOLD HER I'M JUST FRIENDS WITH SIVA!
B-BUT AT SCHOOL, YOU'RE NOT "CIPHER," SO I COULDN'T TELL HER...
OH...
IS THAT ALL?

YEAH, BUT...
.....
THAT'S WHY YOU SAID THAT TO HER, ISN'T IT?
!!!
UH... YEAH
I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT MYSELF.
IF WE DON'T ACT LIKE FREINDS IN PUBLIC, IT WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR JAKE
SIMPLE MINDS
I WAS THINKING ABOUT APOLOGIZING TO THE GUY I'VE BEEN EATING WITH AND BREAK THINGS OFF.
SO SHOULD WE KEEP THINGS AS THEY ARE FOR LUNCH?
REALLY?! GREAT!
OR MAYBE YOU'D PREFER JUST THE TWO...
KLANG
KLAK
SURE...
I COULD JOIN, TOO.
WHY DON'T WE ALL EAT TOGETHER?
KLAK

YOU AND HIM.
ARE YOU DENSE?!
OR ARE YOU JUST MAKING FUN OF ME?
HUH?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SIVA IS BETTER.
KIND, CONSIDERATE ...A GENTLEMAN.
.....
TRUE.
HE PROBABLY IS BETTER SUITED TO YOU.
HE'S MORE RELIABLE, MORE ADULT.
.....
大将
大将

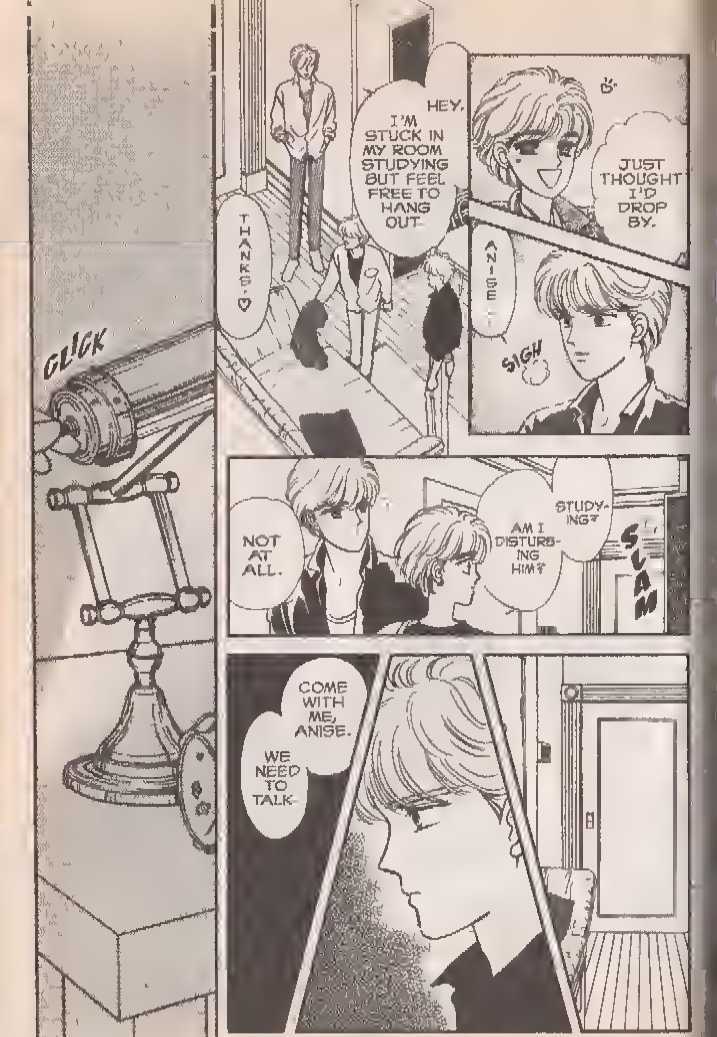
I LIKE SELFISH BRATS! REALLY!
I LIKE UNRELI-ABLE GUYS!
WHY? IS THIS ALL JUST UNREQUITED LOVE?
GRAB
WHAT A JERK!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY "NO" OR "I'M NOT PUTTING YOU DOWN!"
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE TEASING ME!
YOU SAID THAT ON PURPOSE!
DON'T PLAY DUMB!

WSSSHH
PAW
PAW
PAW


BRRR
JAKE.
TAKING A BREAK?
YOU NEED ONE.
I MADE YOU SOME COFFEE.
THANK YOU.
IT STINKS THAT YOU CAN'T TALK WHILE YOU'RE STUDYING.
CAN I COME OVER AGAIN TONIGHT?
ROY QUIT FOLLOWING ME ABOUT SO MUCH.
REALLY?
REALLY

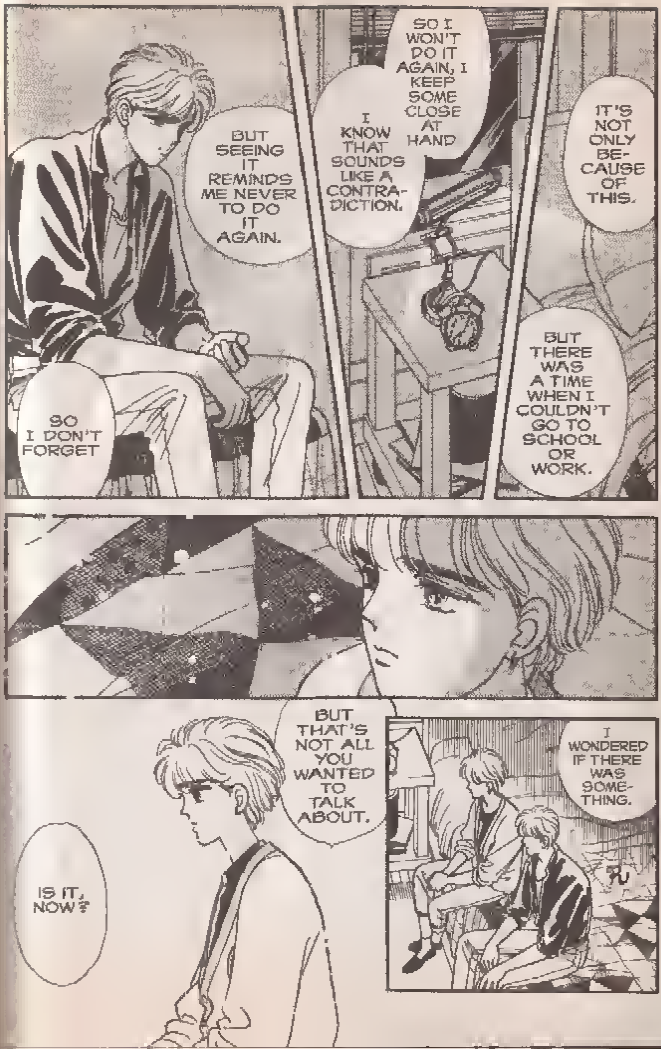
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, DON'T BE.
THAT ONLY BOTHERS ME.
JAKE, IS IT OKAY IF I GO OUT EVERY DAY WITH ANISE?
IF YOU NEED TO TALK, TALK TO ANISE.
IF YOU DON'T VALUE HER, SHE'LL THROW YOU AWAY.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
JAKE, CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE LONELY FOR MY SAKE?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, JAKE?
IN OUR WHOLE LIVES, WE HAVEN'T BEEN APART FOR EVEN THREE DAYS.

WE WERE APART FOR ONE WEEK, ONCE.
JUST THAT ONCE.
ROY?
HEY, GUYS!
CLACK CLACK CLACK
I'M SORRY.
I'VE REMINDED YOU OF IT.

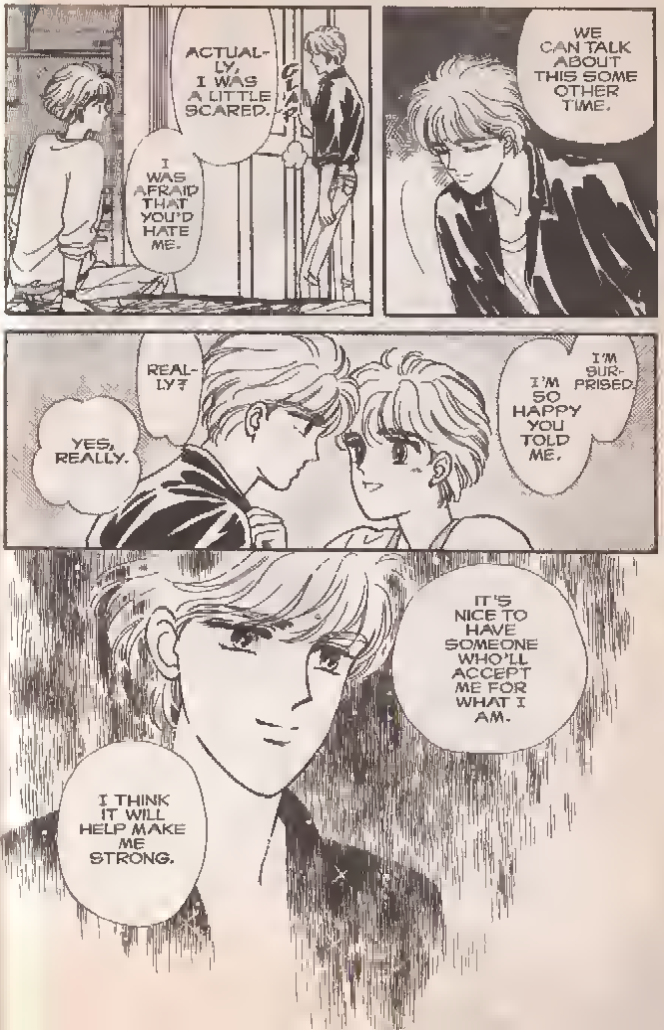

CLICK
THANKS.♡
HEY. I'M STUCK IN MY ROOM STUDYING BUT FEEL FREE TO HANG OUT.
ANISE...
SIGH
JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP BY.
NOT AT ALL.
AM I DISTURBING HIM?
STUDYING?
SLAM
COME WITH ME, ANISE.
WE NEED TO TALK.

CREAK
PLOP
GUESS WHAT THIS IS.
POWDER?
FLOUR?
NOPE.
SUGAR.
NOPE.
SWEET & LOW?
NOPE.
BAKING SODA?

COME ON, BE SERIOUS.
YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS.
.....
DRUGS?
BINGO.
COCAINE.
FLIP
WAY BACK...
...I USED TO DO IT.

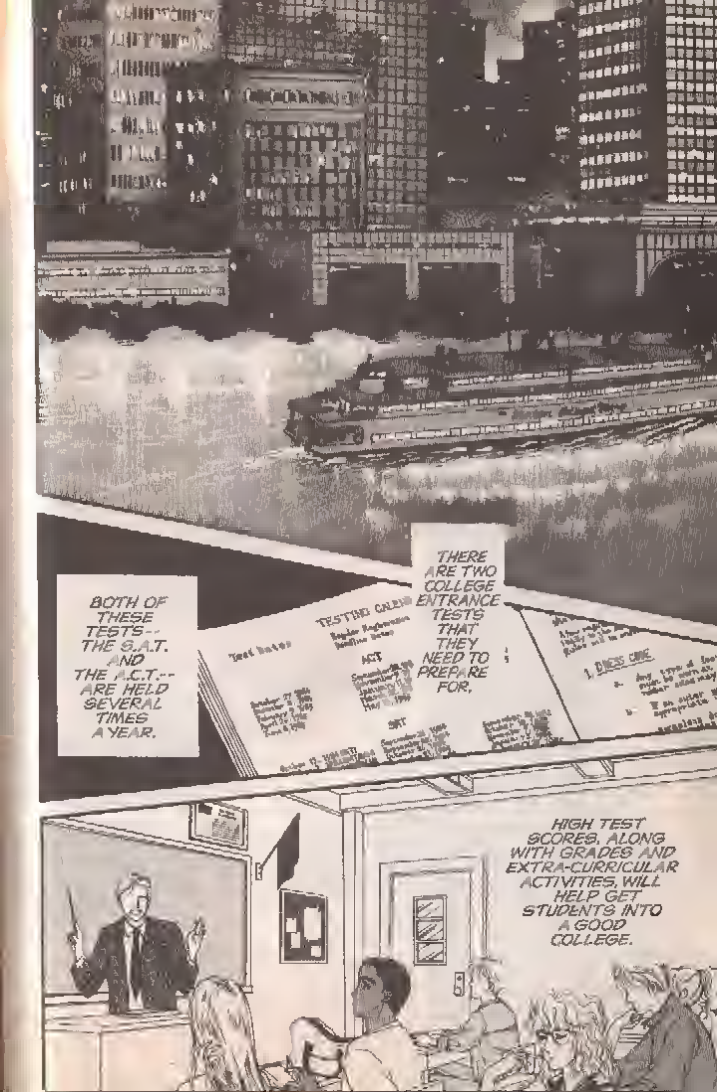

BUT SEEING IT REMINDS ME NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN.
SO I DON'T FORGET
I KNOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A CONTRA-DICTION.
SO I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, I KEEP SOME CLOSE AT HAND
IT'S NOT ONLY BE-CAUSE OF THIS.
BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL OR WORK.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.
IS IT, NOW?
I WONDERED IF THERE WAS SOME-THING.
RU

.....
DOES THIS SCARE YOU?
DO YOU HATE ME?
NO...


I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU'D HATE ME.
ACTUALLY, I WAS A LITTLE SCARED.
GLARE
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS SOME OTHER TIME.
YES, REALLY.
REALLY?
I'M SURPRISED.
I'M SO HAPPY YOU TOLD ME.
I THINK IT WILL HELP MAKE ME STRONG.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL ACCEPT ME FOR WHAT I AM.

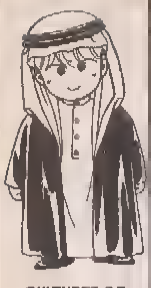
AND I HAVE TO BECOME STRONG.

STRONG!


BOTH OF THESE TESTS-- THE S.A.T. AND THE A.C.T.-- ARE HELD SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR.
THERE ARE TWO COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS THAT THEY NEED TO PREPARE FOR.
HIGH TEST SCORES, ALONG WITH GRADES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, WILL HELP GET STUDENTS INTO A GOOD COLLEGE.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR MOST SCHOOLS IS JANUARY FOURTH.
— IN NOVEMBER...
...MOST APPLICANTS ARE EXTREMELY BUSY.
JAKE IS BUSY WRITING HIS APPS AND PREPPING FOR THE TESTS.
WE'LL TAKE IT EASY FOR THANKSGIVING.
COLUMBIA.
SCRAPE SCRAPE
OH, REALLY?
WHAT'S HIS FIRST CHOICE?

HE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE MANHATTAN.
SO THAT MAKES IT COLUMBIA.
SCRAPE
COLUMBIA
HE'LL GET IN. HE'S PRETTY SMART.
WHAT ARE HIS CHANCES?
THAT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO GET INTO.
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW!
WELL, IT'S MOSTLY SMALL JOBS.
A LOT THROUGH SIVA'S CONNECTIONS
RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF WORK WITH THE NAME "ROY RANG."
WHAT WILL YOU DO, CIPHER?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A STRANGER, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE TWINS.
I'LL GO TO ACTING CLASSES AND TAKE ALL THE AUDITIONS I CAN GET.



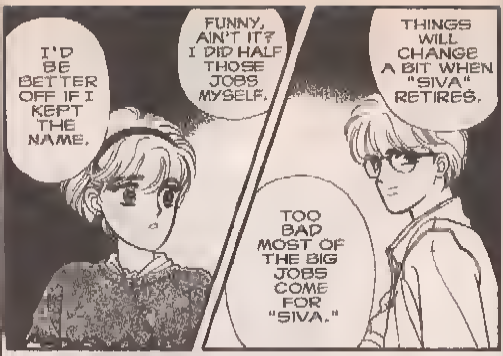
CULTURES OF THE WORLD SERIES, NO. 2

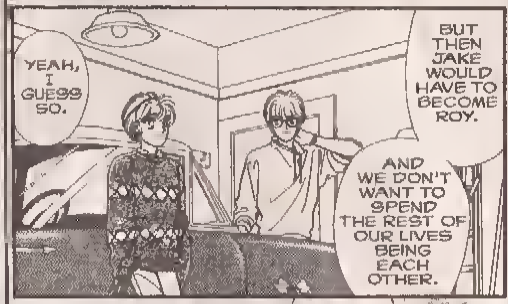
FIRST, HERE'S MY ADDRESS!

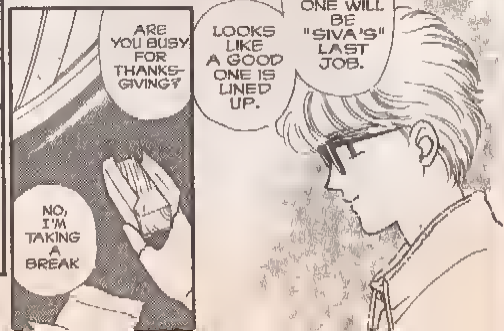
NARITA MINAKO
C/O CMX/WILDSTORM
888 PROSPECT ST
SUITE 240
LA JOLLA CA 92037

IT TAKES A LONG TIME FOR LETTERS TO REACH ME SO PLEASE DON'T SEND ANYTHING PERISHABLE! OTHERWISE, THEY STINK WHEN I OPEN THEM.

I'M WAITING FOR YOUR LETTERS!!


I'D BE BETTER OFF IF I KEPT THE NAME.
FUNNY, AIN'T IT? I DID HALF THOSE JOBS MYSELF.
THINGS WILL CHANGE A BIT WHEN "SIVA" RETIRES.
TOO BAD MOST OF THE BIG JOBS COME FOR "SIVA."





DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO YOUR MOTHER'S HOUSE OR SOMETHING?
THANKS, BUT—
IT'S THE ONLY TIME THE WHOLE FAMILY GETS TOGETHER.
NO, THEY'RE ALL COMING HERE.
. . . . . .
WELL, THEN YOU CAN COME TO MY HOUSE!
YOU AND SIVA CAN COME TOGETHER, IF YOU DON'T HAVE PLANS!
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE?
UH-
SO MAYBE WE WILL SHOW UP.
I'LL ASK JAKE ABOUT IT.
NO
WE DON'T GET TOGETHER

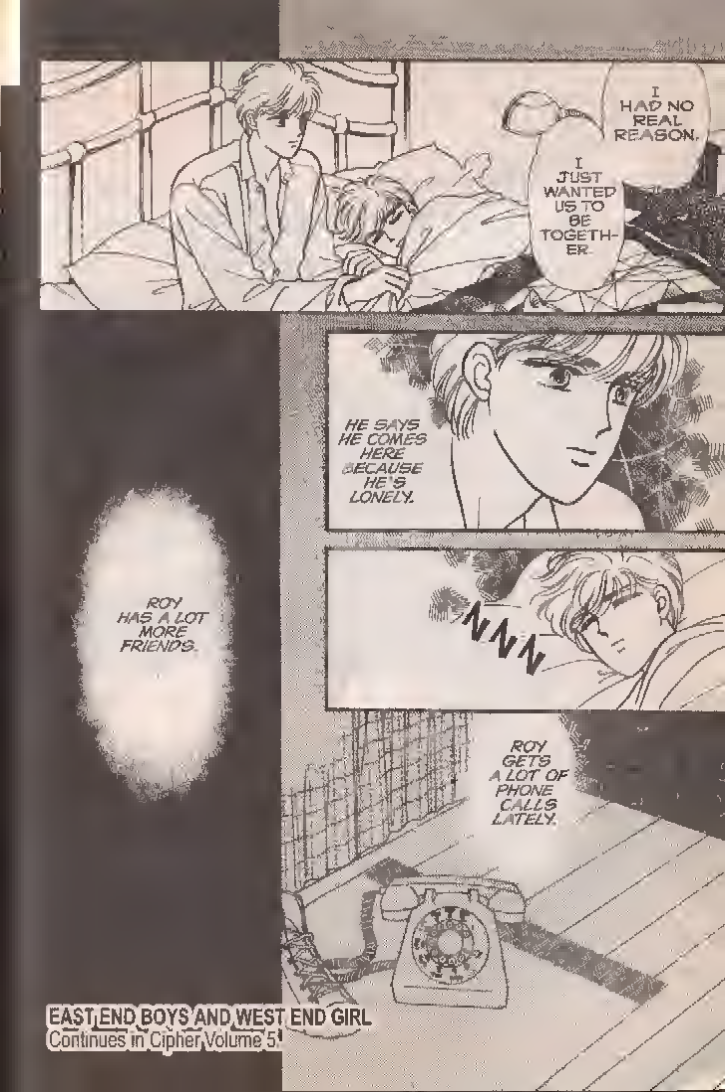
BY THE WAY...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE RECENT JAKE?
WHY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, NOTHING.
FORGET ABOUT IT.

TICK TOCK
CLACK
SLAM
DONE STUDY-ING, JAKE?

YOU'LL CRAWL IN EVEN IF I SAY, "NO," WON'T YOU?
READY FOR BED?
CAN I GET IN WITH YOU?
YOU COLD?
HERE'S A BLANKET TO KEEP YOU WARM.
JAKE.
DID YOU NOTICE THAT ANISE LIKED ME A LONG TIME AGO?
NO, I'M OKAY.
WHAT? THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU *TELL* ME?
WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED ME TO TELL HER YOU LIKE HER?
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T NOTICE WAS *YOU*.

THERE'S DIFFERENT WAYS OF HELPING,
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU GET TOGETHER.
NO! I'D TELL HER MYSELF!
SEE?
UH...
WELL...
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ABOUT THIS NOW?
...YOU REALLY WANT ME TO SAY I'M SAD?
IT SEEMS LIKE RECENTLY...
POOF BOY.
JAKE?
ARE YOU LONELY?

HM?
I'M NERV-OUS
WELL ...
IT FEELS SO STRANGE, JAKE.
LATELY, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
DID YOU COME IN HERE JUST TO SAY THAT?
MAYBE SOMETIME SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS IT.
Well...I mean...
WHAT DOES ?


I HAD NO REAL REASON.
I JUST WANTED US TO BE TOGETH-ER.
HE SAYS HE COMES HERE BECAUSE HE'S LONELY.
ROY HAS A LOT MORE FRIENDS.
ROY GETS A LOT OF PHONE CALLS LATELY.

EAST END BOYS AND WEST END GIRL
Continues in Cipher Volume 5!

WILL A NEW GIRL BREAK UP THE TWINS?
FIND OUT IN OCTOBER!

By Minako Narita. Cipher and Siva have shared one identity for years. But, lately they are discovering that their individual wants and needs are becoming harder to suppress and that sharing an identity might now be too much of a limitation. Especially when Cipher takes an acting role away from Siva, who wants to get closer to the female lead. Will the twins be able to keep up their secret without anyone getting hurt?

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